

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 18, 2008. Claims 1-9 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 7-9 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the office action, claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,510,676 to Cottaar et al. (hereinafter Cottaar).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection that the cited reference anticipates the present invention as claimed.

Cottaar shows a high pressure sodium lamp with a uniform thickness outer bulb. The Examiner contends that the outer bulb includes two areas of thickness which were equal and therefore satisfied the claim limitations. The Applicants agree that the outer bulb is of uniform thickness, but disagree that Cottaar teaches the present claims.

Claim 1 includes, *inter alia*, an outer envelope in which a discharge vessel is arranged around a longitudinal axis, ... the outer envelope (1) having a bulb-shaped portion (2) adjacent the discharge space (13), the bulb-shaped portion (2) having a wall thickness d_1 , the remainder of the outer envelope (1) having a wall thickness d_2 , wherein the ratio of d_1 and d_2 is other than unity.

Cottaar does not disclose or suggest a bulb-shaped portion adjacent the discharge space (13). The outer bulb of Cottaar is depicted as a uniform cylindrical shaped bulb in both the area of a discharge space and outside the area of the discharge space. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Cottaar suffers from the drawbacks outlined in the background of the present

specification.

Notwithstanding this structural difference, claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the ratio of d_1 and d_2 is other than unity. Cottaar fails to disclose or suggest any difference in areas of the outer bulb let alone differences in thickness. The present claims provide an additional bulb shaped area and thickness corresponding with the discharge space on the outer envelope. This is not taught or suggested by Cottaar. It is therefore believed that Cottaar fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. Claim 5 is believed to be in condition for allowance as well due at least to its dependency from claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

By the Office Action, claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cottaar in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,719,463 to Hassink et al. (hereinafter Hassink).

Hassink does not disclose or suggest a bulb-shaped portion adjacent to a discharge space (13), and fails to describe different thicknesses for the outer envelope. Therefore, Hassink fails to cure the deficiencies of Cottaar. Claims 3-4 are believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to their dependency from claim 1. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

By the Office Action, claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cottaar in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,104 to Rutan et al. (hereinafter Rutan).

Rutan does not disclose or suggest a bulb-shaped portion adjacent to a discharge space (13), and fails to describe different thicknesses for the outer envelope. As such, Rutan fails to cure the deficiencies of Cottaar. Therefore, claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to its dependency from claim 1. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 7, 8 and 9 have been added and are believed to be in condition for allowance over

the cited art. Early and favorable consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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